

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. The amendments to claim 1 are supported by page 2 of the specification, original claim 12 and i) of claim 1 is supported by the last 6 lines of page 4 of the specification.

**IDS**

An IDS was filed on December 27, 2005 disclosing four references that were cited in a counterpart foreign application. The examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed copy of the related SB-08 with the next communication.

**Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)**

The process of Hayden is silent on the utilization of water vapor in the process. The catalyst used in Hayden is a silver catalyst supported on  $\alpha$ -alumina. The process of Boeck is uses similar catalyst as that of Hayden and is directed to epoxidation of butadiene. The process of Nakashiro uses a catalyst of silver supported on  $\alpha$ -alumina and is directed to the epoxidation of ethylene. The reference is silent on the use of water in the epoxidation process. The process of Mu1 is silent on the use of water in the epoxidation process. Therefore, none of these references teach or suggest the present claims.

**Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By \_\_\_\_\_

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